

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2008

Paul Branson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Attending: Janet Abelson, Ken Altenburger, Steve Belkin, Joe Bischofberger, Eleanor Bloch, Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, David Grant, Eugene Halliday, Rich Hedges (via telephone), Julio Lacayo, Marshall Loring, Joshua Miele, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Craig Yates, Shirlee Zane -- and Commissioner Giacopini. Members reported as unavailable: Bruce Oka, Barbara Rhodes.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Jan Garrett, Ed Roberts Campus
- Patti Sparks, Contra Costa County Aging & Adult Services

Public Comment from Audience Members

Ms. Garrett, grateful for EDAC's long support of the Ed Roberts Campus, happily announced its May 31st groundbreaking. She said time would be made to acknowledge EDAC members in attendance that day, and would keep EDAC apprised of event details.

EDAC Minutes

Dec. 6, 2007 - Mr. Hedges moved approval, Mr. Altenburger seconded; approved. Mr. Belkin and Mr. Yates abstained.

Jan. 3, 2008 - Mr. Miele asked for corrections to reflect: (1) MTC's consultant making 511 Transit Trip Planner accessible by screen readers, (2) telephone portion of 511 on a future EDAC agenda, (3) distinction between member comments and staff replies. Minutes were approved as corrected with a motion from Mr. Hedges and a second by Ms. Bloch with Belkin/Yates abstaining.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Grant reported on the Council's Jan. 9th meeting: Bob Planthold was elected chair. Among many matters, members advised a strong statistical base by examining data on injury accidents and fatalities for the Collisions/Fatalities section of T-2035.

EDAC Subcommittee Report

Emergency Preparedness Subcommittee Chair Trenten said MTC's Nancy Okasaki that morning addressed regional emergency preparedness. Member Rich Burnett attended a Feb. 6-7 workshop "Connecting Communities: Public Transportation Emergency Preparedness" at Caltrans in Oakland where National Transportation Institute staff addressed response times, recovery times, mitigation, liability of authorities, etc. A subcommittee concern: short of reliance on neighbors entirely, funds and a database are lacking to be able to locate elderly and disabled persons after an emergency.

Chair's Report

Chair Branson said he was pleased with how MTC had opened up the T-2035 process. He asked staff to track AB 1637 (DeSaulnier), a bill proposing that non-emergency medical transportation be allowable. [It was later reported that the bill had stalled.]

Staff Report

Ms. Vogler reported on T-2035 meetings remaining for advisors: Feb. 13 (after Advisory Council), Mar. 11 (before MCAC), and Apr. 3 (after EDAC) and encouraged continued attendance.

New Freedom Proposed Program of Projects

Christina Atienza distributed material on the recommended program of projects for the region's \$1.5 million large urbanized area apportionment, reminding that FY 2006 monies expire Sept. 30th. Reporting on the restrictions and qualitative criteria that were applied, and that the program was oversubscribed by 75%, she answered members' questions. Members agreed to endorse the program as a good use of the funds, after a motion by Mr. Hedges and a second by Ms. Zane. Abstaining were members Bloch, Branson, Loring, and Yates. Ms. Atienza was to provide additional material via e-mail, and at the next EDAC meeting present the Caltrans small-urbanized areas call for projects.

Enhanced Taxi Study Results

Ms. Vogler introduced Amy Van Doren of Marin Transit who reviewed their recently completed taxi study and distributed materials. Members were keenly interested in Marin's program, asking questions about the feasibility of such a program going regionwide; the challenge of convincing taxi companies of the program's financial viability (one company had already signed up, and another, a taxi cooperative, being reluctant to sign and instead plans a similar program of its own); creating a voucher payment system or some mechanism for passengers – who can afford to – to pay more; pursuing legislation to regulate drivers who refuse passengers in wheelchairs, which sometimes occurs if there is a taxi monopoly such as at certain BART stations; having MTC provide oversight if change is needed. Chair Branson suggested mobility management centers as a place to coordinate a taxi program like Marin's, and that EDAC be updated on Marin's progress.

Joint Advisor Workshop Follow-up on T-2035

Ms. Vogler emphasized major policy and program areas that have already emerged from advisor input: (1) develop a mobility management strategy; (2) develop a long-range plan aimed at coordinating and supporting transportation programs and transit services; (3) integrate universal accessibility criteria into regional funding policies and programs.

Highlights of member comments:

- Information access to all projects matters — including to the visually impaired.
- Geographic data needs a closer look, especially looking at opportunities for large print format, and transit maps that are tactile.
- The EDAC population is least served by projects oriented towards single-occupant vehicles.
- Signage matters for everyone.

Other Business (none); Next Meeting; (3/6/08); Adjournment (12:30PM).